

VALLEY STAR

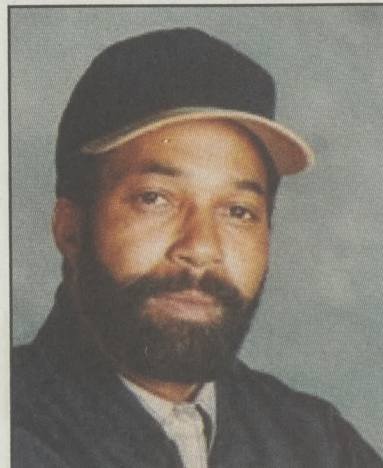
THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 68, ISSUE NO. 6

APRIL 16, 2008

It's YOUR NEWSPAPER

Valley Mourns Dedicated Employee

BY ASTRID SEIPELT
NEWS EDITOR

FILE PHOTO

Charles Long

Valley College lost one of its own Thursday when Operations Manager Charles Edward Long died of a heart attack.

He was 56.

Long was born in Springfield, Massachusetts on July 10, 1951 where he lived until he was 6 years old. Long and his mother moved to Los Angeles in 1957, where he attended elementary through high school, graduating from Manual Arts High School in 1969.

Long was a large part of Valley, having worked in maintenance and operations for 28 years. Tom Lopez, director of maintenance and operations, says that Long was a hard worker and always willing to go above and beyond his duties.

"Charles was a much liked person with a big heart and a smile on his face... Everyone on campus is going to miss him," Lopez said.

Long began working at Valley as a custodial supervisor after he transferred from West Los Angeles College in 1980. He was promoted to the position of operations manager six years later.

Long's workmates in say that he was a real character who loved to visit Hollywood Park race-track to watch the horses and was never seen without a baseball cap on.

"We worked together for 24

see Long page 7

CHECK OUT THESE GUNS



PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

SUCCESS STORY - Manuel Salcido, 51, flexes the muscles on his left side that were once paralyzed. In 1986, he came to Valley College for therapy in the Disabled Students Program and Services and is now a volunteer in the adapted P.E. gym.

College Debuts Recycling Plan

BY WILL REYES
EDITOR AT LARGE

Valley College unveiled a new recycling program as part of a Los Angeles Community College District effort to emphasize the importance of recycling and promote environmental awareness.

"I'm very excited [about the program]," said retiring Valley President Tyree Wieder. "I wanted to make sure this got in place before I left. It's taken a very long time and we're glad it's

finally here. I hope that everyone participates and makes it a success."

The program features approximately 500 large and small cardboard containers and 18 blue recycling trash bins around campus. Items allowed are aluminum cans, plastic and glass bottles, cardboard and paper.

Green and yellow signs advertising the program with instructions are visible throughout Valley, which has a history of unsuccessful recycling efforts.

"One of the reasons we didn't [create our own program before] was because [the district] wanted to do it at the district level so that all the campuses had the same program," Wieder said. "I made sure that it was understood that I was anxious for Valley to be one of the pilot schools. We managed to get things going and we were the first official pilot school."

An adequate recycling system was a longtime request of the Associated Student Union.

"We've always wanted this

because we always felt like we needed recycling," said Jose Daniel Fuentes, the former ASU commissioner of campus and environmental affairs. "We fought for the bins for three years because they create a mindset where students ... now have the opportunity to recycle and be more conscious."

Many students said they were pleased to finally have a place to recycle.

"I think it's a great idea," said Valley student Marianne Gadhia. "The new bins seem to be everywhere, [and] it's wonderful because many times you buy a drink and the container just ends up in the trash."

The new program was done in conjunction with the LACCD and a company called Recycling Solutions, which estimated that nearly 70 percent of Valley's trash is recyclable. In addition to the environmental benefits, the school can potentially save money by reducing the amount

see Recycling page 7

Valley Names Acting Leader

BY KRISTEN BECKER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

FILE PHOTO

Acting President Sue Carleo

Valley College announced Tuesday that Sue Carleo, Los Angeles Community College District senior vice chancellor of human resources, will serve as acting president when current Valley President Tyree Wieder retires June 31.

Carleo is no stranger to the Valley community. Before taking her post at the district level in 2002, she served as Valley's vice president of academic affairs for six years.

"[Students can expect] someone who will listen, someone who will work with the faculty and the staff at the college to ensure that what we are doing is creating an environment

for student learning and student success and whatever we do needs to ultimately help us help our students succeed," Carleo said.

In order to ease the transition after Wieder's 14 years as president, Carleo will begin serving as acting president on June 1, giving a month overlap for the two presidents to work together.

Although they have not discussed any formal plans for collaboration, Carleo explained her plans for working with Wieder.

"I want to pick her brain as much as I can," she said. "She has been absolutely the most dynamic president at the college, probably in the district ... And so, I intend to take advantage of the opportunity to learn as much as I can from her."

Wieder discussed the projects she wants to focus on before she retires.

"This campus is one that works in collaboration; so many people are involved in projects," Wieder explained in an e-mail. "Currently my goals were to leave the campus with the summer moves carefully planned and the buildings that are scheduled for renovation to be ready for the contractors to begin their work; we are also working on completing phase I and II of the college Education Master Plan update. These two issues are critical. We are also working

see Leader page 7

DSPS Gym Finds a New Location

■ Valley College gym helps disabled students gain mobility when doctors and therapists can not

BY ELIZEDA BELTRAN
STAFF WRITER

Valley College's Disabled Students Program and Services will have more to offer for physically disabled students July 15, when reconstruction to the North Gym is complete. It will unveil new facilities for the disabled after almost 30 years of waiting.

"We've been overcrowded here for years," said Jim Gayton, professor of adapted physical education. "We started out down in a closet almost thirty years ago and we used to work out in the hall at the other end of the gym, and we had another room ... That was terrible. Now we'll get a completely new gym three times bigger than this."

The adapted physical education courses provide more than 100 physically disabled students with individualized workouts to help maximize their physical abilities.

Once construction is completed, students will receive a new facility with new equipment. Also, one of the two pools being constructed is designated for disabled students with warm and shallow water. But for the moment, students remain in the South Gym, surrounded by a cloud of dust and the sounds of construction machinery.

"Right now we're all choking ... They are putting tar on the roof and we're inhaling that" said Manuel Salcido, a volunteer at the adapted physical education gym. "The fact

that we don't have any [ventilation] at all, we have to keep the windows pretty much closed because no one can stand the tar, the stench."

However, Salcido is grateful for the new facility and the pool designated for the use of disabled students. "We're promised the pool that is being built right here in front of us immediately, which is great, so we can't really complain about it," he said. "We just have to wait until they finish it."

Salcido is just one of the success stories that reverberate inside the gym. He came to Valley in 1986 paralyzed on his left side after sur-

"We're promised the pool that is being built right here in front of us immediately, which is great... We just have to wait until they finish it."

- Manuel Salcido

viving a car accident, which left him in a coma for nine months. A year later he regained complete mobility through specialized workouts and now serves as a volunteer.

"Most students who are in here come here because they used up all their insurance, all their medical, any type of assistance they

see Gym page 7



PARANDZEM GRIGORYAN / VALLEY STAR

BOOKSTORE VS. BOOKSTORE - Valley College students Courtney Wood and Mario Guzman purchase books at the Off Campus Bookstore on Burbank Boulevard.

Bookstore Battle Continues

BY JAMES BENNETT
OPINION EDITOR

Revenue has declined at the Valley College bookstore this semester due to increased retail options off campus and online. Down \$50,000 from last semester, the on-campus book vendor struggles to maintain its client base with a new "service plus" business model.

"Everybody here is willing to try and work with people, with what (and how much) they've got to work with," said Valley bookstore manager Claudette Burns. "If we don't have any used books, we'll call around to try and find them a used book. We'll do whatever we can to keep our customers here."

Students aren't staying on campus, however. According to an unscientific random poll conducted on campus by the Valley Star, most students buy their books

online through a variety of retailers.

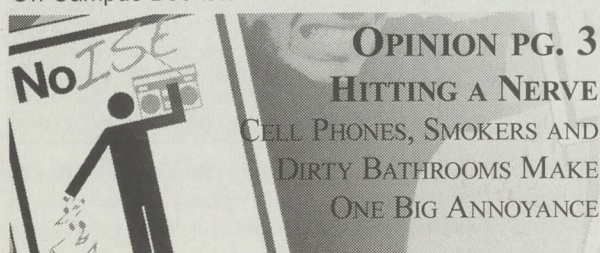
Data from the poll indicated that for every two students who bought books on campus, three bought books online; and one bought their textbooks at the "Off-Campus Bookstore" right across the street on Burbank.

"They hate us, we're cheaper, we're faster," said Kay Chung, supervisor at Off-Campus.

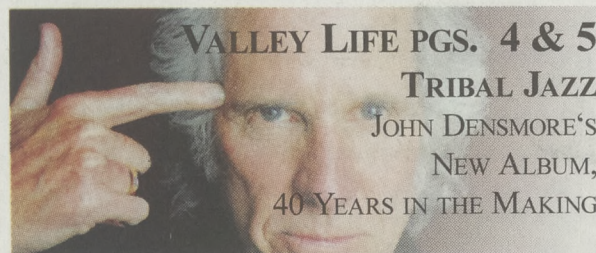
According to Chung, the Off-Campus store generated a \$200,000 profit during the first two weeks of the spring semester. Chung attributes his success to the store's one-on-one business model. At Off-Campus, instead of grazing the shelves themselves, students ask for their book at the front desk while a sales associate retrieves it for them.

Student opinions fall across the board. Biochemistry major Ani Aslanian bought

see Bookstore page 7



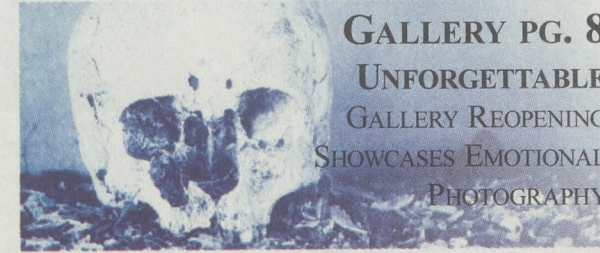
OPINION PG. 3
HITTING A NERVE
CELL PHONES, SMOKERS AND
DIRTY BATHROOMS MAKE
ONE BIG ANNOYANCE



VALLEY LIFE PGS. 4 & 5
TRIBAL JAZZ
JOHN DENSMORE'S
NEW ALBUM,
40 YEARS IN THE MAKING



SPORTS PG. 6
VALLEY PEOPLE
RUNNER SYLVIA ALBONIGA
SHINES ON THE TRACK
FOR VALLEY



GALLERY PG. 8
UNFORGETTABLE
GALLERY REOPENING
SHOWCASES EMOTIONAL
PHOTOGRAPHY

Dean List Students Honored

BY SHANNON MCHUGH
STAFF WRITER

Approximately 200 proud Valley College students filed into Monarch Hall, along side friends and family Thursday for the Dean's Reception, where they were acknowledged for their academic success in the fall semester of 2007.

The students awarded with the dean's list honor were both part-time and full-time students who earned at least a 3.5 grade point average in more than 6 units (12

units for full-time students) last fall. If the student has been on the dean's list for three consecutive semesters, they are placed on the president's honor list.

This semester, 287 students made it on the president's list, and 519 full-time students and 788 part-time students were placed on the dean's list.

"As community college students, we tend to wear many hats," said Jamaceo Black, vice president of the Associated Student Union, in his welcome address. "Some of us work, some of us are in student government and some of us are parents. Yet through all of this, you are still able to do very, very well at school and for that I give my congratulations and my respect."

Black was not the only person to express his admiration of these hard-working students; every

person that spoke on the stage explained a profound appreciation for everything Valley students do to make themselves educated and successful people.

The faculty's participation in student success did not go unnoticed, as they, too, were welcomed and thanked for their efforts in enriching the lives of students.

Sheri Berger, vice president of the Academic Senate, spoke on the behalf of the faculty, expressing her favorite moments as a teacher at Valley.

"I do [teaching] because I enjoy the light bulb moments in my class; the moments when I see on the faces of my students that they get it," she explained. "They really, really get it."

Each one of the students taking part in the reception have proven they are capable

see Reception page 7

Nursing Program Opens Doors

■ The deadline to apply for this high-demand program is April 30.

BY SHEILA KOOCHAK
STAFF WRITER

Valley College is accepting Fall 2008 applications for the Nursing Program, which is designed to prepare graduates to function as entry-level Registered Nurses in the health care delivery system. The application process has begun and a deadline of April 31.

"Students thinking of nursing need to take all the specific courses, including English very seriously," says the Valley College Chair of Health Science Department Mary Cox. "We're not looking for the top 10 percent, we're looking for students

who have a good potential for remaining in the program and passing their classes; students with a high potential for success." Valley's Nursing Program, which is approved by the National League for Accrediting Commission and the California Board of Registered Nurses (BRN), receives more than 400 applicants per semester, but only has seats for 50 students. Pierce and Harbor Colleges are the only other schools in the district that offer a nursing program.

All students applying to the Valley College Nursing Program must be a Valley student and have all transcripts from other schools mailed directly to the LAVC Admissions Office. The nursing department also recommends that prospective nursing students meet with a counselor

well in advance of the application deadline for advice to help prepare for the program. Once completed, an "Evaluation of Transcripts for Nursing Program Prerequisites" will be issued to hand in with the application. "Make sure to see a counselor right at the beginning," says Vice Chair of the Counseling Department Barbara Goldberg. "It is very important so we can help them plan so they don't end up wasting time."

The Chancellor's Office Validation Study is based on predicting student success in the nursing program. The programs selection process consists of the evaluation of transcripts and application using the criteria from the study, in which students are given a 'cut score' calculated from the students overall GPA, and the GPA of their Anatomy, Physiology,

see Nursing page 7

This Week in History

VALLEY STAR April 17, 1958

Royal Hopefuls - Thirteen women and nine men were vying for the title of Feista King and Queen, who would reign over the college's Fiesta activities May 10 through 17.

Cinematic Delight - Walt Disney film, "The Little Outlaw", was presented by the Spanish Club in the Men's Gym for fifty cents per ticket. Proceeds went toward the club's scholarship fund.

I got the Fever - Valley students were being caught using funny excuses for skipping class. One student said the reason for his absence was "Beach party", at which he caught Spring fever and had to be quarantined.

Sew What's New - Fashion and budget conscious ladies were often seen poring over sewing patterns at the local store to make their own clothing for school. Beach hats were also in style, decorated with ribbons and faux flowers.

It's a Science - Women were being encouraged to take Secretarial Science classes in order to avoid competing with

the men. Over 100 women were enrolled for such classes for the Spring 1958 semester.

Tumble Time - Ace Valley gymnast Keith Gouger became AAU Metropolitan Tumbling champion at a North Hollywood High School Meet. Gouger was undefeated in his tumbling events, but lack of depth in other team areas cost LAVC the win.

Let It Play, Boy - Mens magazine Playboy had been on the shelves for three years, but was still not accepted in local libraries because of claims of bad taste. Staff Writer Dick Stanfield argued the opposite, saying that Playboy's humor and lifestyle guides were making some readers very happy rabbits.



PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

LOOKING FOR APPLICATIONS - Valley College Nursing Program Director, Mary Cox, says applicants need to be focused if they take on the challenging course of study.

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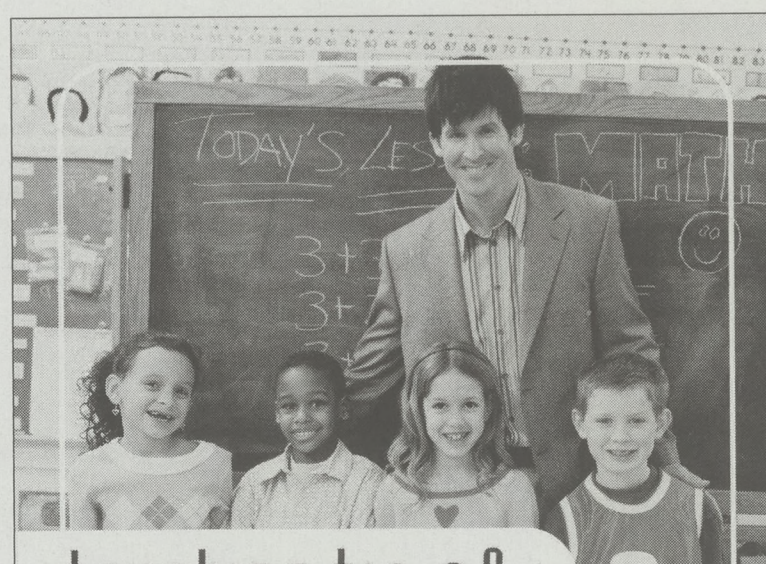


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teaching tip #9

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OPINION

3

False Depiction

BY KRISTEN BECKER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Progress, particularly when used the way Gen. David Petraeus and U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker used it during their testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, generally refers to significant change.

Apparently, according to those running the War in Iraq, progress happens when the number of U.S. soldiers dying drops from 100 or more per month to 30 or 40 in that same time frame. It also occurs when the U.S. government only pays nearly \$3 billion toward Iraqi security rather than \$5 billion, despite the fact that the United States is facing a rather significant economic crisis.

Americans are supposed to be assured and perhaps even supportive of the war even though Petraeus will only go so far as to describe it as "significant but uneven progress in Iraq" and reminded the senators present that the current state of relative security is "fragile and reversible."

Both Petraeus and Crocker spoke hopefully about the improving situation in Iraq, citing legislation approved by the Iraqi parliament that has yet to be implemented and the cease-fire by influential cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, the head of the Mahdi Army as proof of their claims. Unfortunately, Baghdad has been overtaken by renewed violence with targets in the supposedly secure "Green Zone" being hit by rockets. Even the revered al-Sadr cease-fire cannot be celebrated since the

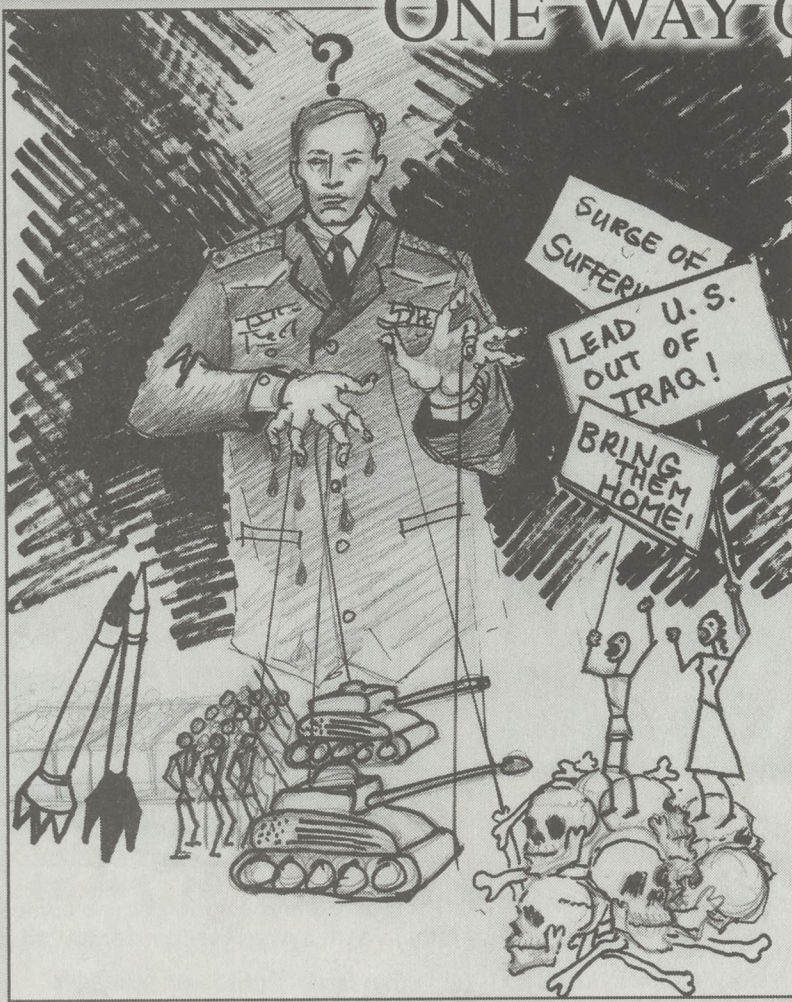


ILLUSTRATION BY PARANDZEM GRIGORYAN / VALLEY STAR

cleric is considering ending it.

Sen. Joseph Biden (D-Del.), chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee stated that even with these improvements, "we've gone from drowning to treading water." He cited \$3 billion spent a week as well as the number of American soldiers killed in combat, which passed the 4,000 mark recently.

"We can't keep treading water without exhausting ourselves. But that's what the president seems to be asking us to do," Biden said. "He can't tell us when or even if Iraqis will come together politically. He can't tell us when or even if we will draw down below the pressure level. He can't tell us when or even if Iraq will be able to stand on its own two feet... He can't tell us

when or even if this war will end."

While it was refreshing to hear both Crocker and Petraeus admit that the war is not going as well as they would like, this little bit of honesty almost made it harder to hear them try to sell the so-called progress being made in Iraq.

Five years later, Saddam may be gone, but we have created a much greater catastrophe than ever existed while he was dictator. Rather than going in and making the nation an image of ourselves to shine the light of democracy throughout the Middle East, we succeeded in creating a quagmire and fostering a civil war, all the while creating even more fodder for those terrorist groups who would harm us; and our leaders cannot even recognize it.

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

EACH WEEK, THE VALLEY STAR EXAMINES AN ISSUE FROM TWO SIDES.

THIS WEEK: THE GENERAL AND THE AMBASSADOR GIVE THEIR TESTIMONY

Endure This Noble Struggle

BY SHANNON MCHUGH
STAFF WRITER

There is one thing that we can all agree on, no matter what side of the political spectrum we call our own; the death of innocent people is unacceptable. The issue that divides Americans into their respective political parties, however, is how we should deal with these deaths, which are inevitable and unavoidable.

General Petraeus' latest update on the security situation in Iraq has left many left-wing activists reeling with disappointment and aggravation over his plan to keep 15 troops in Iraq, as an attempt to work with Iraqi partners in securing their land and to delegate responsibilities to Iraqis so we can leave them with a safe place to live. A place where parents can feel comfortable letting their children play in their own backyard without fearing that they will fall victim of an Al Qaeda stray bullet, or feeling secure enough to leave their families and go to work without fear that they may not ever see them again.

The left has stood firm that retreating from this virtuous goal is the United States' safest option. While true that the road to a sustainable and free Iraq has been long and treacherous, our military has made significant progress as Gen. Petraeus and US Ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker noted. According to their testimony, the levels of civilian deaths

have dropped significantly, Al Qaeda-Iraq (AQI) and other extremist organizations have been nearly routed, and many local Iraqis are participating willingly in local security objectives.

"Nevertheless, the situation in certain areas is still unsatisfactory and innumerable challenges remain," said Petraeus in his report on Capitol Hill on Tuesday. "... As events [such as the attacks in Basra] in the past two weeks have reminded us... the progress made since last spring is fragile and reversible."

The cries from the liberal media and supporters are hysterical pleas to pull every last person from their station in Iraq as quickly as possible, as if they refuse to accept the good that has come from the surge and prefer to dwell on the past. The problem with a rapid withdrawal, as Petraeus explained, is that pulling all troops out would leave the Iraqi government with an unstable military that will not be able to survive the unrelenting attacks of what is left of AQI.

Senator and presidential hopeful John McCain stands by Petraeus and Crocker's decision by saying in a statement, "Should the United States choose to withdraw from Iraq as Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama wish to do; before adequate security is established, we will exchange for this victory a defeat that is terrible and long lasting."

This goes to show just where



Torch Trouble

by Josh Spence

Hooray Blogs

by Astrid Seipelt

the mindset of these two parties differ with the thought of death of the innocent; the conservative view aims to rid Iraq of any more civilian deaths by demolishing AQI and others, and therefore increase security of the United States and other countries; whereas the liberal side of the debate focuses on the 4,000 Americans who have given their lives to achieve such goals. Both sides are looking to end the deaths of innocent peoples; they just cannot find a common way to agree on doing so.

We are blessed to live in a country where both sides of a debate can be set free and viewed by the public in a manner that is both critical and supportive. In a time when there is no concrete way to end the things we know are wrong, however, it is sometimes more important to set aside personal ambitions and learn to accept that change is a slow process that, with determination and undeniable support from those back in the states, can give the men and women serving our country the power to come home victorious.

Valley's Smoking Sorrow

BY ASTRID SEIPELT
NEWS EDITOR

Valley College is a place of learning, where students come to be educated in their chosen field. However, one of the first lessons I learned at Valley was not to do with English or math, but was how to avoid the smoking that runs rampant throughout the campus.

It is no secret that there are designated areas on campus for smokers. They are signposted and have special receptacles to gobble up your butt once you are done. In the last week or so, signs have appeared all over campus, clearly advertising these smoking locales. Despite this, there are countless students who wander throughout campus, traveling straight past the smoking areas and tossing their smoldering butts wherever they see fit.

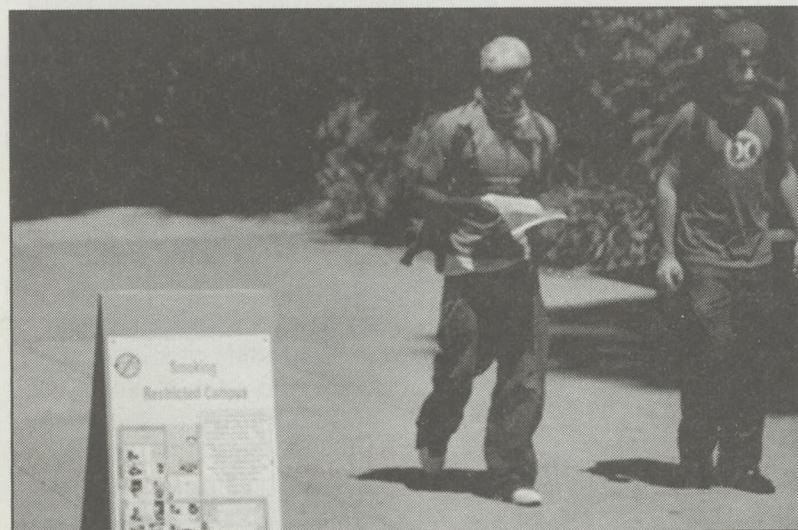
It also does not help to see campus security practically ignore those students who choose to smoke outside the designated areas, even though it is stated in the college catalog that "smoking is prohibited on all property and all indoor and outdoor spaces owned, controlled or administered by Los Angeles Valley College except in designated areas." Why are these students

not punished when they are breaking a stated school rule?

I'm not here to give a lecture on how smoking is bad for you. I am here to say that it is not fair on all the non-smokers on campus that have to put up with cigarette litter underfoot at every step and inhaling smoke while walking in between classes. This is a school, not some smoky bar and respect should be shown to those who choose not to smoke and to those who maintain the school. After all, I am sure that it is not the custodians' favorite task to clean up after your habit.

The solution to the smoking problem on campus is to ban it entirely. I am sure that students could go at least a few hours on campus without a nicotine fix. They have no need to be puffing away while at school, and Valley would benefit greatly from the clean air and less litter.

Valley would not be alone in a ban. According to BBC News, Shanghai, China, has more than 140 non-smoking schools and a non-smoking prison, a response to the growing number of smoking-related illnesses. Let's hope that Valley follows this lead, and kicks the habit that we could all do without.



VIVIAN LEE-MAYHUE / VALLEY STAR

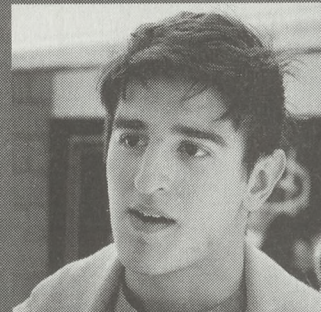
NO SMOKE HERE. Alex Diaz, information technology major and Wesley Bryant, graphic design major, stroll by one of the new smoking signs placed on campus which advises that LAVC is smoking restricted and that violation of the smoking policy may cause a student to be referred for disciplinary action.

CAMPUS View

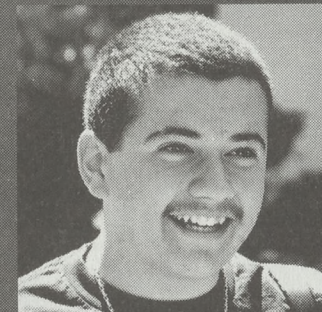
photos by Jonathan Gibby, Assistant Photo Editor / Valley Star



"You have to wait a month to talk to a counselor. If you need to talk to somebody you can't, because you need to have an appointment like a month in advance."

-Ivy Avanesian,
biology

"The library is very ugly. They should add more color, better colors make me study better. Their book collection is fine, but they should put some art up too."

-Andrew Vasilj,
international development studies

"They have cup-o-noodle in the vending machines without hot water. The vending machines in general are annoying, they turn on their own; they're like alive."

-Peter Kazuryan,
undecided

"People calling this 13th grade, they're degrading themselves. You're still getting an education, people don't realize what they're talking about."

Gabby Valenzuela,
english

What are the most annoying things on campus?

GRR, This is so ANNOYING

BY ELIZEDA BELTRAN
STAFF WRITER

I had my first mid-life crisis at six when I realized that I could not fly after attempting to jump from a 7-foot ladder and tumbling down onto the concrete, breaking a hand. At that moment I realized that the world was not perfect, that I was not at the center of it, and that I would have to deal with it.

However, it seems that some students at Valley College are still in their towers waiting for Prince Reality to plant a kiss on their lips. Like a leaking faucet or a squeaky door, they parade their annoying powers throughout campus. But it is not only students who arouse my displeasure. With all the renovations to the campus, perhaps a nickel or two can also go toward making the campus less vexing.

I begin my day at Valley with an array of Kung Fu hand movements that I have learned over the years to defend myself against the fumes of cigarettes chasing me as I travel to



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION / PARANDZEM GRIGORYAN / VALLEY STAR

my classes. I have been trying to keep my lungs smoke free for 20 years. So, if you must, please damage your lungs in the designated smoking areas.

Just as I think nothing else can bother me, I decide to use the bathroom only to discover that perhaps some students have maids at home who flush away their waste, as they seem to expect the same treatment at school. Toilets come with flushes, and you can even double flush. But my bad experience at the bathrooms doesn't end here. It also requires the

strength of Samson to pull a decent amount of toilet paper from the defective spools.

And just to put icing on my already collapsing cake, I realize I need to print my assignment and head to a computer lab, just to learn that the printers are out of order. Just when I need to print my eight page essay, they are out of order. Making sure that there are functioning printers is essential, since many students don't have printers at home.

After a day of chaos, I like to go to the library and

bury my head in a book and enjoy the echo of a flipping page against the stillness of the room. But just when I start to think I understand Shakespeare, I hear a person to my right speaking on their cell phone. Where are the manners? I truly don't want to hear how Janet is in love with Brian and how Brian is in love with Jasmine, and how Jasmine made out with Brian's best friend after a night of binge drinking.

And just to put a cap on my day, as I wait for my ride home, I have to endure the loud speakers blasting my ear drums emanating from a car three miles away. And as the car approaches the loading zone, it suddenly burns enough rubber to make my ears scream in pain.

I don't recommend anyone attempting to jump from a ladder and breaking a hand to figure out that the world does not revolve around them. There might be less severe side effects to finding out that you need to be considerate.

TOP 5 STORIES

@ LVALLEYSTAR.COM

Brackets Offer March Madness For Any Fan

By Joshua Spence

Rising Gas Prices Place Students Under the Pump

By Eli Beltran

Sheriffs Complete Profiling Inquiry

By Will Reyes

Intolerable Intolerance

By Will Reyes

New Governor Begins Historic Term

By Will Reyes

LAVC EVENTS

Wednesday, April 16

ASU Elections @ 9 am-2 pm & 4-7 pm (Monarch Square) - Contact: Associated Student Union (818) 947-5516

LAVC Health Fair 2008 @ 9 am-3 pm (Monarch Square) - Contact: Laura Camberos (818) 778-5814

LAVC Library "Internet Workshop" @ 10:30-11:30 am (LAIR Computer Lab) - Contact: LAVC Library (818) 947-2425 <http://www.lavc.edu/Library/workshopsched.htm>

Photography Exhibition "Impossible to Forget: The Nazi Camps Fifty Years After" - by Michael Kenna @ 11 am-2 pm & 6-9 pm (LAVC Art Gallery); Admission: Free - Contact: Art Gallery (818) 778-5536 <http://www.lavc.edu/arts/artgallery.html>

Photography Exhibition "Wounded in America" - Rotating Exhibit @ 11 am-2 pm & 6-9 pm (Art Building Hallway Exhibit Cases); Admission: Free - Contact: Dennis Reed (818) 947-2625

Free Wednesday Concert - LAVC Jazz Band @ 1 pm (Music 112); Admission: Free - Contact: Music Dept (818) 947-2347

Thursday, April 17

LAVC Library "Internet Workshop" @ 8:30-9:30 am (LAIR Computer Lab) - Contact: LAVC Library (818) 947-2425

Photography Exhibition "Impossible to Forget: The Nazi Camps Fifty Years After" - by Michael Kenna @ 11 am-2 pm & 6-9 pm (LAVC Art Gallery); Admission: Free - Contact: Art Gallery (818) 778-5536 <http://www.lavc.edu/arts/artgallery.html>

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Think Transfer!

Fall 2008 UC and CSU priority transfer application deadline is November 30. Apply on line at www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply or www.csumentor.edu

Guarantee your admission to a UC by participating in a UC Transfer Admission Guarantee Program. For program information, qualifications and applications visit the Career/Transfer Center, Adm. 126, or call (818) 947-2646. All events held in the Career/Transfer Center

Wednesday, April 16
Undecided Major/Career Workshop 1pm-2pm

Thursday, April 17
CSU Los Angeles Rep 10am-1pm
CSU Los Angeles Fall 2008 Admitted Student Workshop 1:30pm-2:30pm FL 100
CSU Dominguez Hills Rep 10am-1pm
Career Speaker: Careers in Recreation and Tourism 1pm-2pm FL 102
Undecided Major/Career Workshop 5:30pm-6:30pm

Additional content online - Go to

www.lavalleystar.com

Art in the Time of Intolerance

BRAD TAYLOR
MANAGING EDITOR

Israel Hirsch, a distinguished member of the Jewish community stood in front of a photo of a dissection table from the Natzweiler-Struthof camp. He came to the Art Gallery at Valley College to see photos of the Nazi concentration camp where his father had been held. Through his glasses there were no tears, just a stoic look of acknowledgement and appreciation for the artwork. He walked through the gallery taking in the entire show; he was pleased to see so many young people there.

"I remember the Gestapo coming to my house," said Hirsch. "It is very important for people to see this. Not a lot of people know about all of these camps."

The Art Gallery at Valley

College held its renovation reopening on Tuesday with renowned English photographer Michael Kenna's powerful art exhibit showcasing the Nazi concentration camps 50 years after the Holocaust.

"Impossible to Forget: The Nazi Camps Fifty Years After" is a haunting and often serene look at the remains of 21 European concentration camps, captured in black and white photos. The pictures offered grim reminders of the atrocities committed by the Nazis. The stunning bright new gallery was contrasted by the dark subject matter of some very controversial art pieces.

"We wanted to provide the opportunity for all kinds of class discussion across campus," said the Dean of Fine, Performing and Media Arts Dennis Reed. "It could



PHOTO BY MICHAEL KENNA

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK - At first look, a serene snowy scene comes to mind. In actuality, it's a Michael Kenna's photo of a pyramid of human ashes at a Nazi concentration camp at Flossenbürg, Germany.

be history, sociology or all sorts of classes where the Holocaust could be discussed as well as prejudice and personal freedoms."

The gallery reopening was well attended with large crowds of students and members of the community who appeared to be deeply affected by photos. Many students were there doing art projects or for extra credit, putting pen to paper and writing down their thoughts on the artwork.

The austere and stark photos lined the gallery walls with the name of the camp and death toll of each. Rusty hypodermic needles, weather-worn guard towers and cremation ovens made with fine tile were the focus of many pictures, while others featured the

thin faces of prisoners or barbed-wire-lined fences.

"I am very pleased with the

"It could be history, sociology or all sorts of classes where the Holocaust could be discussed as well as prejudice and personal freedoms."

-Dean of Fine, Performing and Media Arts, Dennis Reed

number of people here. It is an outstanding exhibit and we are fortunate to have it, as well as the "Wounded in America" exhibit," said Valley President Tyree Wieder. "We only hear about one

or two camps and coming here to see the number of camps is somewhat overwhelming."

There was also a free opening-night lecture by Zev Garber, a professor of Jewish Studies, entitled "Nekama: The Last Voice from Auschwitz" with a musical introduction by the Kadima String Quartet in the Music Recital Hall. A second lecture with a panel discussion of death camp survivors will be held on Wednesday, April 30 at 7 p.m. in the Art Gallery.

The Art Gallery is open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. For more information, contact the LAVC Art Gallery at (818) 778-5536 or visit <http://www.lavc.edu/arts/artgallery.html>.

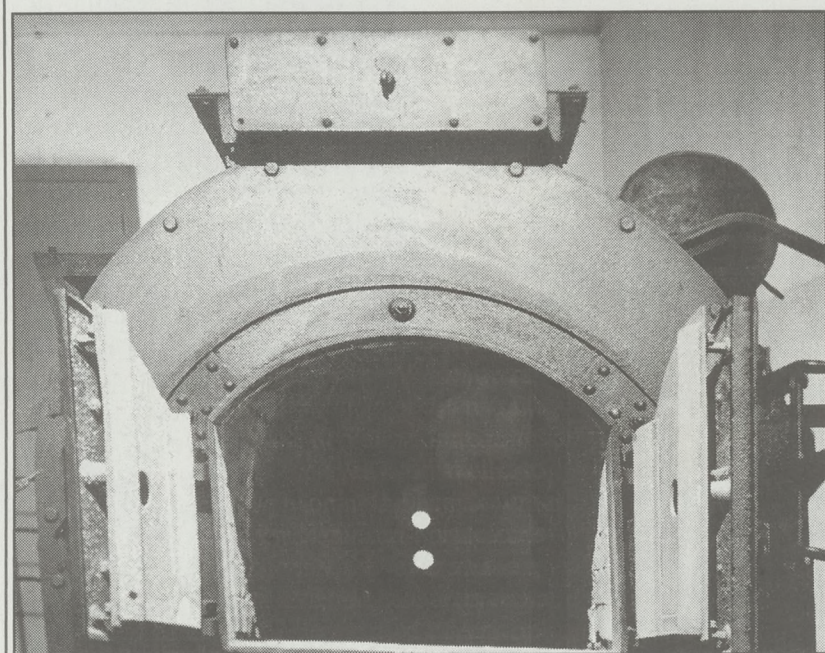


PHOTO BY MICHAEL KENNA

A CHILLING REMINDER - A crematorium oven in Nordhausen, Germany is shown in this photo which is on display in the Valley College Art Gallery.

Low Turnout for Annual Art Fair

ELI BELTRAN
STAFF WRITER

Valley College's annual Fine Art/Performing Art Majors Fair came just in time for the sun to offer a free sun tan.

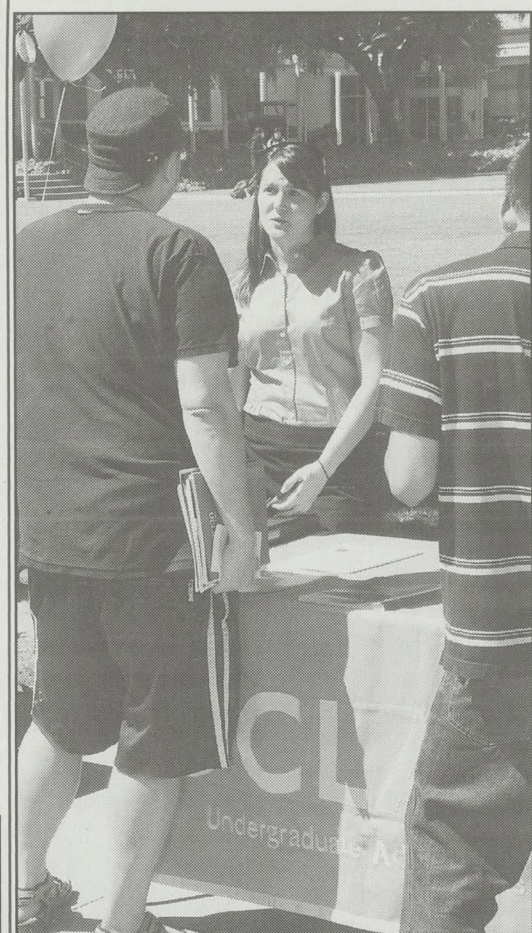
Representatives from 14 colleges congregated in Monarch Square April 10 for the fair to provide students with information on their arts, music, theater, and media art oriented programs.

"I think the effort is awesome, I think it's really good effort, I'm happy with it," said Scott Trask, a media arts cinema major. "We need more, it would be great. The more the merrier."

Students received information regarding transferring requirements and how to make themselves more competitive as applicants. The people behind the booths reiterated the importance of keeping a portfolio of the student's work.

"There's a general USC application that you need to submit and there's also a supplemental application, the supplemental application is specific to your art practice and includes portfolio of your work as well as a personal statement," said Christina Aumann, academic advisor or Roski School of Fine Arts at the University of Southern California. College representatives competed against

see Fair page 5



PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR/ VALLEY STAR

INFORMATION FOR THE ASKING - At the Valley College Fine Arts Transfer fair April 10.

Famed Writer Gore Vidal Visits Valley

ASTRID SEIPALT
NEWS EDITOR

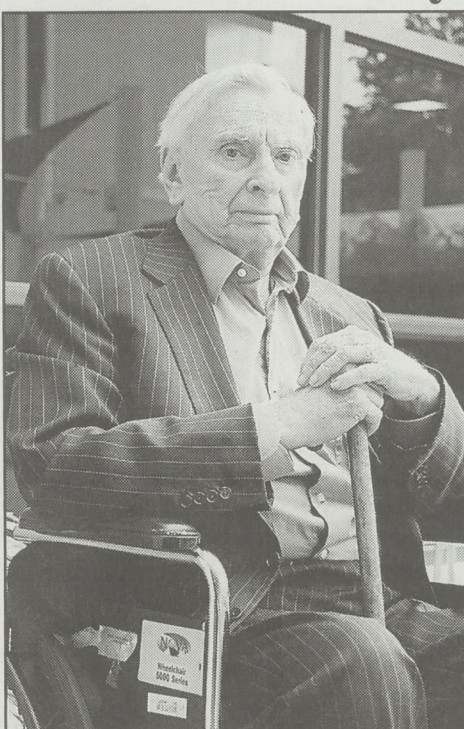
Gore Vidal, who participated in an open discussion with students about the state of the nation. Democracy Matters, CalPIRG and Campus Progress organized the event, called "The Best Government Corporate Money Can Buy."

While he touched on many serious topics throughout the discussion, Vidal drew laughter from the crowd when he shared his views on the presidential candidates.

"I don't know what [Barack Obama's] message of hope is, what is he hoping for?" said Vidal. "But I am certainly on the side of somebody of another race getting the job; these pale white ones have not done terribly well by us."

Vidal then showed his support for the alternative Democratic candidate, Hillary Clinton, stating that she knew what needed to be done.

During the discussion, Vidal was interviewed by Sonali Kolhatkar of KPFF FM, and covered hot topics such as the war in Iraq and the upcoming presidential election.



PARANDZEM GRIGORYAN/ VALLEY STAR

SPEAKING OUT- Famed writer Gore Vidal was invited by LAVC Democracy Matters.

see Vidal page 5

Valley Travel



JONATHAN GIBBY, ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR/ VALLEY STAR

HANDS ON - In the recently added section of the Zoo, known as Muriel's Ranch, youngsters can get up-close and help groom domestic animals.

Fun at the L.A. Zoo and Botanical Gardens

ELI BELTRAN
STAFF WRITER

After an exhaustive week trying to catch up with homework that was supposed to be finished during spring break, I was ready for relaxing end of the week. So, inspired by Animal Planet and a little of a misanthropic attitude I decided to head to the L.A. Zoo and Botanical Gardens in Griffith Park.

My first visit was to Reggie the Alligator, but Reggie was a no show. The heat called for something refreshing, so I followed the shade of trees that led me to the sea lions. I was in luck. A show with the sea lions had just begun.

Under the supervision of a trainer and fish as a reward, one of the sea lions amused the audience as it wiggled its tail, stood on one its flippers, gave a high five, and a salute.

Reggie left me with a desire for something sinister, so I headed to Spider City, a temporary exhibition with over 25 species of spiders running till April 27. The space houses spiders like, the Cobalt Blue Tarantula, the famous Black Widow, and the Goliath Birdeater. Once inside the building you'll enter a comic world where the essential question becomes: Spider City, a city of heroes or villains?

Thorough observation and deep questioning made me arrive at the conclusion that they're only a product of their environment and surviving skills should not be confused with villainy. But through that

same reasoning, I'll step on a spider the moment I see one.

After this, I moved up a path to visit the new Campo Gorilla Reserve, which debuted November 8, 2007, after four years of gorilla absence. There are two compartments, one for a family of gorillas led by Kelly, a male silverback, and the other composed of two bachelors.

I was only able to get a close look at Evelyn who sat leaning against a glass pane with her back to the viewers, with what seemed as a profound gaze.

Kids and adults tried to pose with Evelyn, while an employee explained that she was the second gorilla to be born at the zoo and disclosing her birthday, May 24. "That's my birthday!" a little girl with rosy cheeks and glasses exclaimed.

For my last stop, I wanted to see the elephants and spent an hour walking through meandering paths that led me nowhere. Maybe I should have checked my brochure. The elephant area is under construction.

At the end of the day I left the place with a greater sense of responsibility for nature and understanding of animal and human relations. And you too can do your own share of animal loving by attending the zoo's Earth Day Expo 2008 April 19 and 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., where you can learn how to protect the animals by caring for the environment.

If you plan to visit, the L.A. Zoo is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and tickets are only \$10.

LAVC
EVENTS

Friday, April 18

LAVC Library "Internet Workshop" @ 12 noon-1 pm (LAIR Computer Lab) – Contact: LAVC Library (818) 947-2425 <http://www.lavc.edu/Library/workshop-sched.htm>

Sunday, April 20

LAVC Astronomy Group Mtg. & Lecture @ 7-9 pm (Planetarium) – Contact: LAVC Astronomy Group (818) 947-2335
Monday, April 21
Photography Exhibition "Impossible to Forget: The Nazi Camps Fifty Years After" - by Michael Kenna @ 11 am-2 pm & 6-9 pm (LAVC Art Gallery); Admission: TBA - Contact: Art Gallery (818) 778-5536 <http://www.lavc.edu/arts/artgallery.html>

Photography Exhibition "Wounded in America" – Rotating Exhibit @ 11 am-2 pm & 6-9 pm (Art Building Hallway Exhibit Cases); Admission: Free – Contact: Dennis Reed (818) 947-2625
LAVC Library "Evaluating Websites Workshop" @ 5:30-6:30 pm (LAIR Computer Lab) – Contact: LAVC Library (818) 947-2425 <http://www.lavc.edu/Library/workshopsched.htm>
Tuesday, April 22
Application Deadline for LAVC Summer in Paris Program - Contact: Dominique Merrill (818) 947-2380

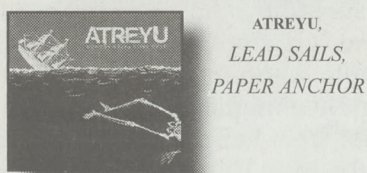
2008 LAVC Shakespeare Birthday Festival @ 11 am-1:30 pm (Monarch Square); Admission: Free - Contact: Ida Ghaffari (818) 983-8316

Photography Exhibition "Impossible to Forget: The Nazi Camps Fifty Years After" - by Michael Kenna @ 11 am-2 pm & 6-9 pm (LAVC Art Gallery); Admission: Free - Contact: Art Gallery (818) 778-5536 <http://www.lavc.edu/arts/artgallery.html>

Photography Exhibition "Wounded in America" – Rotating Exhibit @ 11 am-2 pm & 6-9 pm (Art Building Hallway Exhibit Cases); Admission: Free – Contact: Dennis Reed (818) 947-2625

UPCOMING RELEASES
CD

PICK OF THE WEEK:



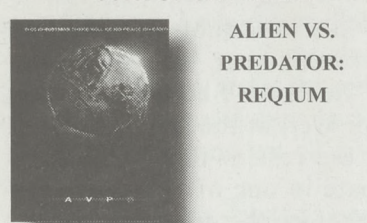
ATREYU,
LEAD SAILS,
PAPER ANCHOR

OTHER RELEASES:

Panic at the Disco, *Pretty Odd*
Blondie, *The Best of Blondie*
Everclear, *The Vegas Years*

DVD

PICK OF THE WEEK:



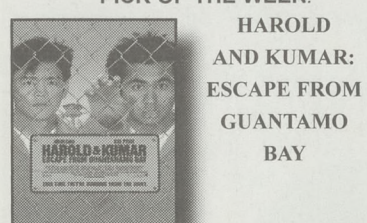
ALIEN VS.
PREDATOR:
REQUIEM

OTHER RELEASES:

Spongebob Squarepants: *Pest of the West*
Retribution
American Dad Vol.3
Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story

Movies

PICK OF THE WEEK:



HAROLD
AND KUMAR:
ESCAPE FROM
GUANTAMO
BAY

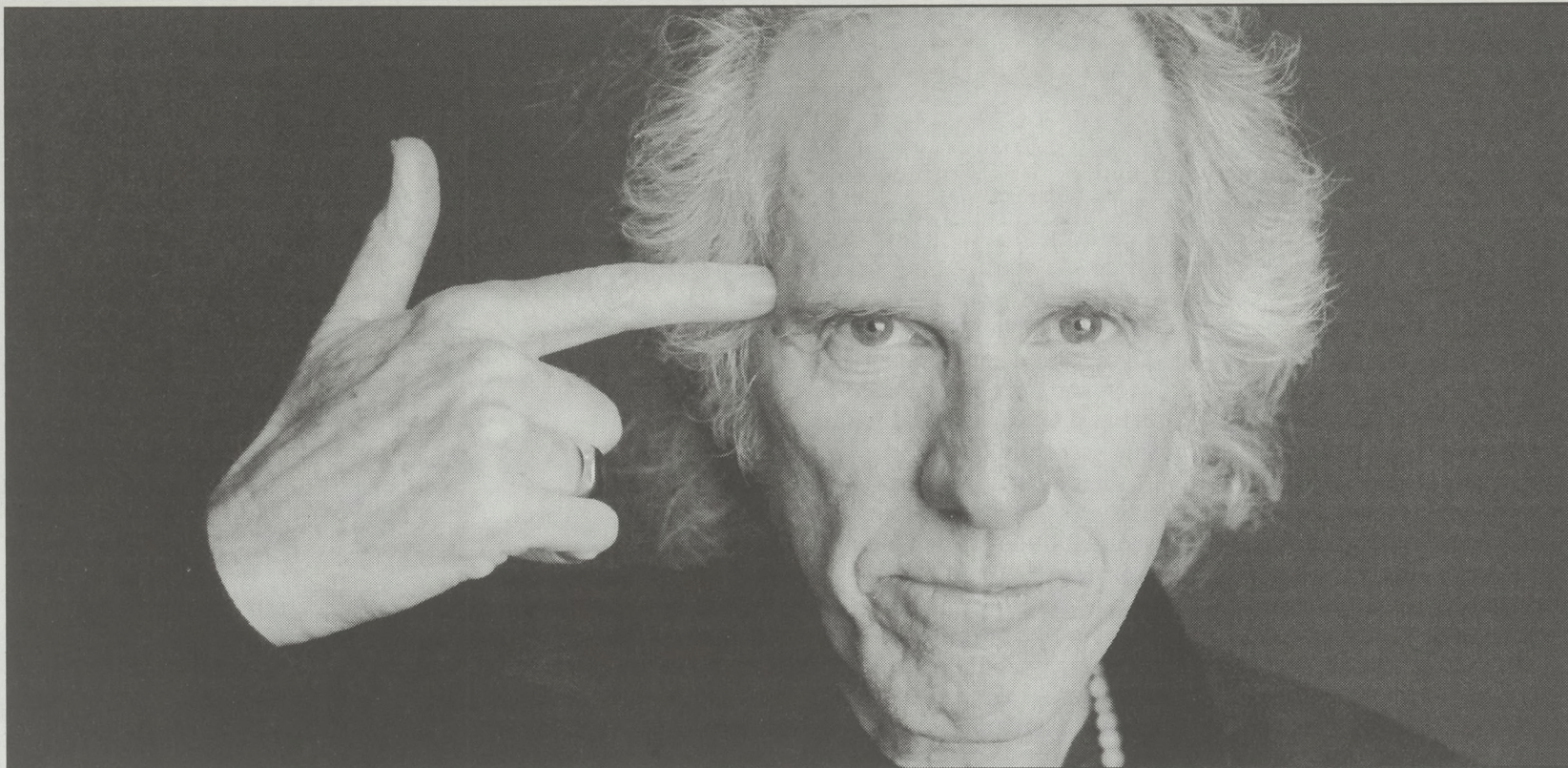
OTHER RELEASES:

88 Minutes
Where in the World is Osama Bin Laden?

DON'T FORGET TO YouTube

How to build a Wii in 10 minutes
How to create a Hi-Def speaker
Text Message Breakup
How to Irrigate Your Nasal Passage

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SCOTT MITCHELL/ VALLEY STAR

Tribal Door-John Densmore, drummer for the legendary rock band The Doors, has recently released his first jazz album titled "Tribal Jazz."

Rock Legend's Latest Jazz Expedition

SCOTT MITCHELL
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

The seeds for this musical adventure began over 40 years ago, when John Densmore, the legendary drummer for the rock band, The Doors, first fell in love with jazz.

"As a teenager, I went to Tijuana and got a fake ID so I could perform in clubs, but especially to get into Shelly's Manne Hole. There isn't one great jazz musician you could name that I didn't see play live. I sat next to Art Blakey and studied his press rolls, I could imitate Elvin Jones style perfectly. I saw Miles, I saw Monk, etc., etc." reflects, Densmore.

The result of this musical collaboration with composer musician Art Ellis is an amaz-

ing and exciting fusion of jazz and tribal African sounds that offer a message to the world. The message is one of unity, community, and celebration.

"There are many villages represented on the CD, as well as in this group of musicians. NYC is one, the streets of Senegal is another. Both genders are present here, and several shades of color-white, black, brown, and hopefully every hue in-between. Can all of these villages, live together, in peace, as one community? We hope that the feeling you get from listening is of a global village that tolerates-in fact, celebrates, the diversity and extraordinary range of cultures on planet Earth," states Densmore in the album art.

The sound of Tribal Jazz is a traditional quartet (keys, bass,

drums, reeds), fuel-injected with two master African drummers.

"Orange Midnight" is a perfect blend of urban jazz and primal African rhythms. "The First Time (I heard Coltrane)" describes Densmore's teenage experience hearing the jazz icon (John Coltrane) live. Alfie Woodard's sultry delivery of the spoken word adds a poetic flavor and layer to this catchy song. A nice surprise in "Tribal Jazz", that Doors fans will be pleased to find, is a tribal version of the Jim Morrison song, "Riders On The Storm."

When asked to describe the production of the album, Densmore commented that, "the album was produced by me and our reedman Art Ellis. After making many albums with the Doors, I realized that I heard

the world. Photographers and painters see the world. This experience made me very confident about the world of sound. We tried to create a landscape of sound. Putting the listener literally in the jungle with natural sounds of birds and animals, in a jazz club, with audience sounds."

Tribal Jazz is an easy listen that will have you coming back for more. John Densmore and company will be performing locally May 7 thru 10 at the Catalina Bar and Grill in Hollywood, as well as the UCLA Jazz Festival, May 25. A follow up CD is already in the works.

To learn more about John Densmore and Tribal Jazz go online to tribaljazz.com, johndensmore.com, and hiddenbeach.com

'Vidal'

Continued from page 4

"The more things change the more things seem stay the same. we are still stuck with the same two party structure, independent leading candidates have yet again been shut out of debates and those who raise the most money are most likely to win the race," Kolhatkar said as she introduced the event's headliner. "It is the perfect time to hear from a person like Mr. Gore Vidal."

When speaking of the war in Iraq, Vidal referenced his own experiences in World War II, noting that his peers were decimated by it, and that the country could not move forward after killing its best generations.

"[American deaths in WWII] is why the country is so lousy today ... This should be our time to do whatever it is we can do," he said.

He also spoke about youth involvement in politics, saying that he did not blame them for not being interested in democracy, because they "don't know what it is like to live in a democratic society."

After the discussion, Valley's Democracy Matters club took to the stage to speak about the effect donors have on political campaigning, policy making and elections.

Andrea Barrera, the president of Democracy Matters said explained the "Clean Money" initiative, which encourages politicians to voluntarily use public funding to campaign and not private donations, increasing the transparency of the political process.

"[Clean Money] will allow candidates to spend more time talking to voters about their needs while reducing the corruptive influence money has on politics," she said. "It opens up the range of issues candidates can talk about because they won't have to worry about alienating powerful donors."

ASU Commissioner of Student and Social Affairs Traci Porter was thrilled when she learned Vidal would be speaking on campus and was humbled by his knowledge.

"When you get your information from other sources, you learn how to become a critical thinker," she said. "Listening to someone like Gore Vidal who is definitely a critical thinker, that gives me hope that maybe if more kids have the opportunity to hear him speak. ... Just maybe this country can get back on the track it should have been on 400 years ago."

May is the New June For Summer Blockbusters

BRAD TAYLOR
MANAGING EDITOR

As if Global Warming was not enough to screw with the seasons, movie studios are working to make summer arrive a month early and may also be ushering in the hottest season for film in history.

May is quickly becoming the go-to month for studios that want to get a leg up on the competition, especially with Memorial Day dollars to be had. But this year blockbuster films are lined up like 747s at LAX getting ready to launch. Here is a run-down of the big budget titans ready to make you use your gas money on a ticket.

May 02: "Iron Man" blasts the summer season wide open. The Marvel Comics armor clad super-hero should break all kind of box office records with all the shiny effects of "Transformers"

and the character depth of a certain Dark Knight, especially with Batman two months away Tonk Stark is the first hero out of the gate. The ad campaign has gone into high gear with Iron Man appearing on everything from t-shirts to Slurpee cups.

May 09: "Speed Racer" zooms onto the scene. Directed by the guys who brought you "The Matrix" the Wachowski brothers are using their technical wizardry to adapt the famous Japanese cartoon into a big screen candy colored IMAX experience. Audiences should brace themselves for CGI racing that may give them vertigo and comic relief in the form of Speed's little brother Spritle and his chimpanzee companion Chim-Chim.

May 16: "Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian" lays claim to the box office. The sequel to the Disney hit based

on the best-selling fantasy novels offers a family-friendly breather that reunites the original young cast and adds new layers with the red-dwarf Trumpkin and a new menagerie of thinly veiled Biblical creatures to the mythology of the series.

May 23: The legendary man with the whip and the fedora returns in "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull". This demographic busting film should shatter all previous box office records set by it's predecessors and redeem Harrison Ford and George Lucas from recent creative slumps in the process.

May 30: Carrie Bradshaw and her girlfriends offer the ultimate in counter strikes against the testosterone driven month with "Sex and the City". The hit HBO series comes to the big screen and caps off the megamonth with a pink exclamation

mark. Women and their reluctant men will flock to this ultimate "chic flick" in droves. So break out the sunscreen along with your Movie Watcher card and get ready for a tidal wave of summer films vying for what is left of your precious gas fund.



COURTESY PARAMOUNT PICTURES

'Pop Fiction' Misses the Mark in Mocking the Media

ASTRID SEIPALT
NEWS EDITOR

Reading gossip blogs and magazines, there are always stories that make you wonder if they are true or just another fallacy aimed at boosting sales. It seems that Hollywood celebrities are thinking the same thing, and want to teach the media a thing or two about reporting the truth, and not just jumping on the latest rumor.

"Pop Fiction", created by Ashton Kutcher is the flagship for vengeful celebrities, but after watching even one episode of this seemingly witty offering, don't be surprised when you are sorely disappointed by its bad execution, bad production and lack of humor.

The show, which is just another angle of Kutcher's previous effort, "Punk'd", takes willing celebrities and puts them in situations in which the paparazzi have the opportunity to perpetuate gossip through the media.

When the next episode of Pop Fiction airs, the celebrity gets to proclaim the tagline "Is it real, or is it Pop Fiction?", much like a five-year-old poking their tongue out at a baby sibling.

The problem with Pop Fiction is the lack of real celebrity. In the three episodes that have aired at the time of writing, D-Listers such as Audrina Patridge (The Hills), comedian David Spade and actress Lisa Rinna have appeared in an effort to trick the paps. The most famous person to participate has been heiress Paris Hilton, though her endeavor of walking around Los Angeles with a "spiritual guru" had gossipers saying that it was just Paris being Paris.

Another blunder is that celeb watchers and gossip rags knew any activities out of the ordinary were staged as soon as they knew that Pop Fiction existed. When Canadian singer Avril Lavigne was spotted with a baby bump while out shopping, there were rumblings that she was expecting, until she was

seen only days later in Miami with a perfectly flat stomach. Story nixed.

When Audrina Patridge was snapped in LA getting a tattoo, it was immediately obvious that it was fake. Anyone who has gotten a tattoo knows what the result looks like, and Patridges ink was nothing like the real deal. Her tattoo was ultimately revealed as bogus the same day, when bloggers translated the Chinese inscription to mean "Pork Fried Rice". Nice try Pop Fiction, but you need to try harder if you want to really fool us.

Pop Fiction needs to take its cue from the viewing public, who know when stars are simply selling out for more attention from the media. People who follow celebrities know that the majority moan about the paparazzi who follow their every move, yet now they are feeding the people they claim to hate. The Pop Fiction jig is up, and the joke isn't funny when everyone knows the punchline.

'Fair'

Continued from page 4

each other for students scattered along the booths. However, there was no definite winner as they had to share the few students that attended the event.

While some of the representatives attracted students by handing out brochures with gusto, others were more reluctant.

"It's one thing to give people information, it's another one to try and find out what they are interested in, because I have people who come to the table and go 'I want this, I want that,'" said Brooks Institute representative, Jaime Perry. "I want to know what they are passionate about, because I don't want to sell them anything." As he said this a woman approached him asking him for a pen.

To some representatives, it was obvious that the turn out was low.

"We've had better turnouts," said Frank Colon, a Dominguez Hills representative.

Still, students like Tiffany Origel found the event helpful despite the lack of interest from other students.

"A lot of the students when they first come to Valley don't know what to do and it's good to come and ask. Maybe they'll say a major and they'll be interested in it.

"Some students just get lazy and don't want to come," she added.

Perry hopes that next year turnout will increase by "getting a venue whereby more students are going to attend. It should be a process of more students attending each year, and not being so scattered."

Monarchs Lose Early Lead

By SCOTT MITCHELL
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

The Lady Monarchs softball team lost an exciting game to Santa Ana College, 10-5 at home under a blistering spring sun Monday.

The Monarchs started the game strong with a quick score in the first inning that followed a lead-off triple. They missed an easy scoring opportunity when the Monarch base runner was called out for leaving third base too early on what should have been a sacrifice fly to left field.

Midway through the game, Monarch left fielder Francesc Alvarez hit a deep double to the gap in left center field. She lost her focus for a moment and was thrown out as she casually walked back to second base after making her turn toward third.

Santa Ana hit the ball well throughout the

game. Momentum started to shift toward the Dons in the fourth inning. By the fifth inning, they threatened to run away with the game with a 5-1 lead.

Valley came back in the sixth inning with a string of consecutive hits that loaded the bases.

Starting pitcher Sasha Snyder hit a grand slam home run over the left field fence to bring the Monarchs to within one run, trailing 6-5.

Santa Ana put the game away in the seventh inning, scoring 4 more runs to extend their lead to 10-5.

Sandra Quiroz, Valley first baseman, continued to play solid defense. "We definitely could have beaten them," Quiroz said after the game. "We could have been more disciplined at the plate."

The Lady Monarchs finish the regular season in a double header next Tuesday against Mission College at 1 p.m. at home.

"We definitely could have beaten them. We could have been more disciplined at the plate."

- Sandra Quiroz



SCOTT MITCHELL / VALLEY STAR

SAFE AT THIRD-Valley College third baseman, Yvette Serratos, does her best to keep the ball in play as Santa Ana College base runner, Vivian Torres, slides safely into third base in the Monarch's 10-5 loss at home April 14.

GONNA BE CLOSE



SCOTT MITCHELL / VALLEY STAR

OUT AT THIRD - Valley College runner, J. P. Hollywood, is about to be tagged out at third baseman by Sean Guest of Citrus College. The Monarchs beat Citrus 15-1 at Pike Field April 15.

THE WORLD OF CYBERATHLETICS

Valley Boasts Champion Brawler

■ The fight is on. The Super Smash Brothers Brawl tournament scene erupts into Sherman Oaks.

By JAMES BENNETT
OPINION EDITOR

In a room chock full of bad haircuts and clattering controllers, Valley College smashed through the competition, easily winning the Toy Mandala Super Smash Brothers Brawl tournament Sunday. Valley student Mike Pulido, aka Mike Haze's Marth effortlessly carved through the competition, three stocking several opponents and two stocking in the finals. "All it is, is playing the stronger mental game" said Pulido, regarding his undisputed dominance.

The tournament, held at the local comic shop, Toy Mandala, drew nearly a full bracket of 32 contenders, a good turnout for an event announced less than a week in advance and a real testament to Brawl's popularity. The event followed fairly standard tournament regulations: No items, three stock, neutral stages with counterpicking. Unfortunately, due to time constraints, participants were subjected to the heartbreak of single elimination as opposed to two out of three match determination.

Generally speaking, high-school-aged Brawlers filled the brackets. However, the finals and semi-finals featured notably more mature competitors; competitors such as second place winner Jeremy Frenlin, a 24-year-old professional poker player.

Needless to say, Brawl has yet to reach its final destination. While not as technical as its predecessor Melee, many cyberathletes feel the tactical metagame holds great potential for high-caliber tournament play. "It's a different game; Melee was very technical and this isn't nearly as technical," commented Frenlin. "It's a more strategic game. It doesn't matter what you do with your hands, it's about what decisions you make." Mindgames, son.

Tournament winner Mike Pulido is no Smash newcomer. Previously, Pulido released Rise and

SHINE, a SSBM Fox combo video and ranked in the top 20 of SoCal Smash players. While the future of Brawl remains hazy, Pulido let the Valley Star in on some of his early metagame insights. Despite the official Smashboards tier list remaining locked up in the backroom for many months to come, Haze speculates that Snake, Metaknight, and Marth will grow into dominant characters.

Snake, he explained, "can jab out of shield, which is really good and not hard to do," Metaknight for his obvious speed, and Marth for his superior range given the player can space his attacks properly.

"It's a more strategic game. It doesn't matter what you do with your hands, it's about what decisions you make."

- Jeremy Frenlin

The Brawl tournament scene, while still young already has a clear king; and no, it's not King Jiggs. According to Pulido, known Melee player DieSupaFly, or DSF quickly emerged as a top dog in the Brawl arena, winning a tournament in Reno and walking with \$1,000 prize money. In Melee, DSF played a plethora of characters and was known for his mindgames; which increased in effectiveness in Brawl.

The Brawl tournament schedule forsakes no weekend in Southern California. Tournament information can be found through the Regional Zones subforum of www.Slashboards.com, or in the Tournament section of www.AllisBrawl.com; not to mention a slew of other Smash-related websites. Most tournaments charge a cover of less than \$10, which almost invariably goes to paying for the venue and/or prize money. Valley's top smashers won't miss them; you shouldn't either.

VALLEY PEOPLE

Hard Work Makes Freshman Track Runner Valley's Shining Star

By SHANNON MCHUGH
STAFF WRITER

A lazy, Southern California haze set over Valley College's newly-renovated Monarch Stadium as a few lingering members of the track and field team slowly led themselves away from the track after a grueling Thursday afternoon workout. At first, the 360-foot-long synthetic turf field looks completely barren, but a second look reveals two shadowy figures, sitting clear across the width of the field.

Upon closer view, it was clear to anyone familiar with the track team who the figures are; one is Coach Harvey, and the other is 18-year-old Sylvia Alboniga, a Valley freshman and one of the track team's rising stars. Her long, muscular legs covered in skin-color tights and red knee-high socks curl in toward her body in a seemingly familiar cool-down routine. Her toned body flexes and pulls with each stretch, proving with each movement just how strong she is.

"She is a hard worker," said women's track and field head coach Yannick Allain. "She works like a horse and never complains, and that's the secret to training. She is strong and trains hard on and off the field and that's what will make her go far."

Alboniga's strength on the field has led her to a third-place ranking in the state for the 400-meter hurdles, but that is not the only success she has experienced with the team. She also participates and excels in four other races, including the 100-meter hurdles, the 4 x 1-mile relay, 4 x 400-meter relay, and the high jump, sometimes all during the same meet.

"I do a lot of things, but the 400-meter hurdles are my favorite," she says with a proud grin. "I ran the 300s for Polytechnic High School and was pretty good at it, so

when I tried the 400s I liked that they were more of a challenge for me. They are what I am best at."

Her confidence in hurdles correlates directly with the overall assurance of her goals in life. As a criminal justice major, Alboniga says that she's always been interested in law and the thought of working with local police departments as an undercover agent.

"I am hoping that one day I will be able to be a crime scene investigator with the LAPD," she said with a focused tone in her soft voice.

Coach Harvey, who initially recruited Alboniga from Poly High, thinks that this determined personality not only makes her a spectacular athlete, but also a person to look up to.

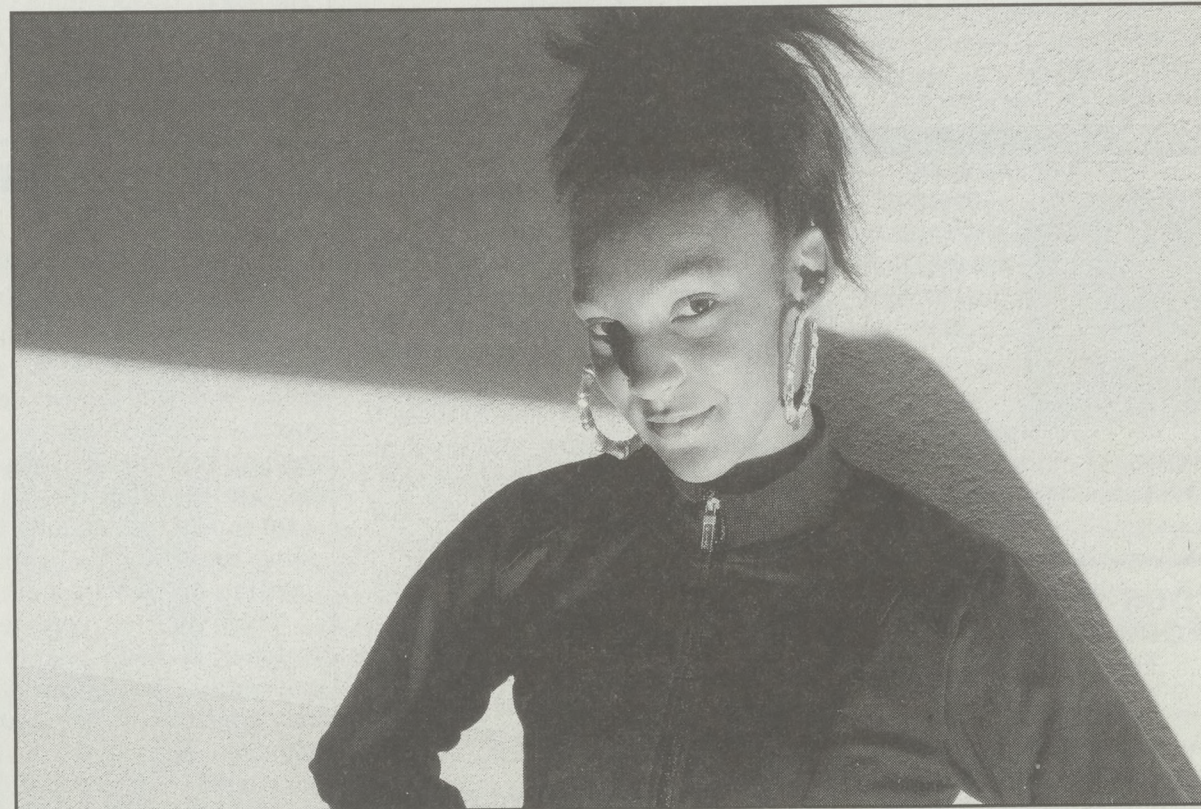
"She's a great athlete," he said, "but her success on the field doesn't make her great. She's just a normal person and that makes her shine everywhere she goes."

Her normalcy is seen in every aspect of her track career, including the constant need for motivation. She was more than gracious in listing all the people who motivate her in her strength, speed and technique training during practice and meets, from her coaches to those closest to her on the team.

It does not look like Alboniga will be giving up on anything any time soon. Her teammates and coaches predict that she will continue to do great things in her time at Valley, and she expects to continue working hard to make it to state.

Coach Allain has no doubt that she will be able to get there this year. "We're expecting her to go far," he said. "She's progressing nicely and will fair well at the state meet."

Alboniga and the rest of the Valley track team will participate in one of their last open meets on April 12 before the preliminary meet April 19.



PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

SPEED AND STYLE - Valley College's Sylvia Alboniga is one of the top track and field performers in the state of California.

THE NEXT TWO

Baseball

4/17 @ Citrus 2:30 p.m.
4/19 @ Pierce 1 p.m.

Softball

4/17 Bye
4/22 vs Mission 1 p.m./ 3 p.m.

Swimming & Diving

4/18 Diving Champ. @ El Camino
4/24-26 WSC Champ. @ Ventura

Track & Field

4/19 WSC Prelims @ Cuesta
4/26 WSC Finals @ Moorpark

Baseball

4/22 vs Pierce 2:30 p.m.
4/24 @ Glendale 2:30 p.m.

Associated Student Union 2008 Election Candidate Statements

Josh Logan Wible— President

As President of the ASU, I will uphold the tradition of excellence in leadership here at Valley College. Together with the Executive Council, we will continue to drive the ASU forward through key issues to provide the best possible experience for the students. I will have an open-door policy for any business involving the ASU, personal or otherwise and I look forward to serving all of you next Fall.

Arthur Minasyan — Vice President

I intend to become Vice President of the LAVC ASU because I am the most qualified and experienced candidate. From the time I competed in gymnastics on a national level, through the challenges of the United States Marine Corps, to designing and implementing therapeutic programs for autistic children, and finally through my most recent endeavor as Vice President for

a startup Casino and Entertainment company, I have demonstrated the necessary leadership and organizational skills required for a successful tenure at this position.

I hope I can count on your vote to bring all my experiences to bear as a student body vice-president.

Tracee Porter — Commissioner of Student and Social Affairs

My name is Tracee Porter. I am running for Commissioner of Student and Social Affairs because since I enjoyed my job so much this semester, I wanted to do it again. I was appointed in Spring 2008, not really knowing what to expect from the position. My first task was planning the Dean's Reception. I didn't know where to start, but with other board members' help, and hard work, I do feel that this semester's reception will go very well. And, I am very much looking forward to the planning of future events this semester and the next.

I am a 41 year-old returning stu-

dent. I attend both Mission College and Valley. At Mission I am pursuing my degree in Paralegal Studies and at Valley I am pursuing my degree in Oral Communications. I will be graduating from both colleges in Spring 2009, exactly 25 years after I graduated from high school. I am very proud of my accomplishments and I am proof that it is never too late to go back to school.

I am looking forward to serving Los Angeles Valley College's students for another year and it is my sincere hope that I serve them well.

Fernando Alvares—Commissioner of Public Relations

As Parliamentarian for the current ASU Board, I'm gaining the experience of how a student government works, and all the services it provides for the students. I want to be Commissioner of Public Relations to increase my involvement with policy making and promotion of anything affecting me and all others students

here at Valley. I want to inform more students about ASU, and increase student involvement in LAVC activities throughout the year. I'm confident I can accomplish these goals as your future Commissioner of Public Relations.

Jocelyn Mercado— Commissioner of Athletics

My name is Jocelyn Mercado and I am running for ASU athletic commissioner. As the ASU athletic commissioner I am determined to unite our Valley community. I am a student athlete here at Valley and will continue to play my second soccer season this year. After my first season here at Valley, I noticed that there is more support from the opposing teams at our home fields than our own students. As commissioner I would like to change that and encourage others to support our athletes who work extremely hard. I am a Write-In candidate so approve me and vote for me! GO MONARCHS!

Lupe Burgara — Commissioner of Political Affairs

I was never a political person. My attitude changed once I won the Dolores Huerta Labor Institute internship in the summer of 2007. The internship made me aware just how much social justice is needed in the labor community. My parents were also victims of unfair wages and poor treatment by employers. I learned that unions fight for change. I continued my political activities by becoming a coordinator for the Southwest Voter Registration and Education Project. Over the course of a week I registered over 127 young voters. I strongly believe that it is the student voices that could really make a difference. As the political affairs officer of the student government, I would want to create events similar to the Labor Union Fair that will take place on May 7 with Dolores Huerta as the guest speaker. I want to teach students about their place in society.

'Nursing'

continued from page 2

Microbiology, and English courses.

Students who successfully receive a "cut score" of 80 and/or above will be considered for the program and asked to take the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) which examines each student on skills in math, reading, science, and English language. The minimum score for the 'TEAS' is 67 percent, which took in effect this spring semester. Despite the numbers, nursing student Gabriella Chavez thinks it's not as hard as it looks. "Getting accepted into Valley's nursing program is very important because it can change your life" said Chavez. "It seems like it might be difficult with all of the requirements, but in reality, it's a lot simpler than it looks."

A lottery of eligible applicants is conducted

if the number of qualified applicants exceeds the amount of in the program. All applicants will then receive a letter of acceptance or denial and accepted students then have a period of time to respond before their seat is given to the next eligible candidate.

Students who complete the Board of Registered Nurses (BRN) requirements and the college degree requirements will receive an Associate of Science Degree in Nursing. Students who complete the BRN requirements but not the college degree requirements may receive an Occupational Certificate. The Fall 2008 Application period end on April 30. The next filing period will be in September for the Spring 2009 semester. For any questions regarding the program, students may stop by the nursing office (Engineering 113), call (818) 947-2559 or www.lavc.edu

'Long'

continued from page 1

years, he was quite a colorful guy and he will be surely missed," said co-worker Maurice Pontani.

Cedric Smith, who also worked with Long, said his memorial would be a happy one and he appreciated how he helped maintenance and operations in a million ways.

His friends say he enjoyed playing tennis with his Uncle George and cousin Collin and playing in golf tournaments to help raise funds for needy students in the Los Angeles Community

College District.

Many people at Valley recall seeing Long and his wife, Margaret Redmon, senior supervisor of admissions and records, walking around campus after eating lunch together.

Long is survived by his wife of 28 years, Margaret, his two sons Eric and Brian and six grandchildren.

Maintenance and Operations are taking donations for Charles Long's family. If you would like to make a donation, please see Perla Lombardo or any Custodial Supervisors in the maintenance and operations building in parking lot D.

'Leader'

continued from page 1

on implementing the Basic Skills Initiative, which will require planning over the summer."

Maggie Lopez, Wieder's executive assistant explained that Carleo "has an open-door policy" and makes herself made herself available to students. She described her time as Carleo's secretary as "very rewarding. I learned a lot. She is one of my role models."

Carleo received a doctorate in education from UCLA and earned both her master's of science as well as her bachelor's of arts degrees from San Diego State University.

'Bookstore'

continued from page 1

her books on campus with no complaints. "It was convenient. The bookstore had the books for all of my classes."

Not all students agree, however. Marianne Arafeiyen bought her books across the street.

"It's very simple and it was quick," she said. "The on campus bookstore is much more crowded and they should better their service."

All considered, the majority of Valley students favor online textbook retailers.

"It's like half the price, literally, half the price," said economics and African American studies major Ben Moye. "I got my books at half price, and at the end of the semester, I sold them back to the bookstore and got all my money back."

Neither the on-campus, nor off-campus bookstores speak kindly of their mutual rival. Both establishments voiced a buyer-beware concern regarding all online retailers, such as eBay. While there may be competition, there's a marked lack of animosity throughout the Valley bookstore war.

"There's room for everybody in this equation," said Valley bookstore manager Claudette Burns. "I think it's wise that the student shop."

'Reception'

continued from page 2

of experiencing those light bulb moments and learning from them.

Psychology major Cynthia Gilstrap has learned to succeed in everything she does at Valley College, making her one of those honored on stage as a part of the president's list.

"It was a lot of work and last semester really hit me hard," she said about her school workload. "But I kind of just have the work ethic that gets me through the tough classes."

The reception provided stu-

dents with some reassuring words from faculty and Valley alumni, who praised their educational feats, as well as a performance by Valley's own Vocal Jazz Ensemble.

"The event was great," said Valley President Tyree Wieder. "There was a wonderful turnout; not just with students but also with family and friends. The emcees were wonderful as well."

Gilstrap thought that the ceremony was worth attending.

"I thought it was a very nice ceremony," she said. "I didn't come to the last couple receptions, but it was nice to see the support from the faculty and other students with this one. It was a great

'Gym'

continued from page 1

could possibly get and their doctors or therapists tell them we can't help you anymore," said Gayton. "What they are really saying is that there's nothing left to pay for you and if a student can learn about our program, ... they can go in, and the job of the teacher and the staff is to teach the student how to do as much as they possibly can by themselves."

Through his work with physically disabled students, Gayton has seen miracles from hard work walk out of the facility's doors. He has seen people confined to a wheelchair walk again and people com-

pletely paralyzed gain mobility of a hand.

This is why he is disappointed that many disabled students are not attending adapted physical education classes because of the time schedule. This is the first semester that no Friday classes are being offered.

"We need to extend hours, [have] additional professors and staff," he said. "I'm contacted many times by people who drop because of the hours... It's just been cut to the bone."

Despite this, Dave Mallas, Gayton's assistant, believes that the new location will help provide students with more services.

"Looking at other adapted P.E. programs, [Valley's] should be one of the top in the state."

daily pick ups.

"The main thing is that the items are being recycled," Lopez said. "The end result is the same, even though the methods may be a little different. Our main concern is to recycle, so for us it's okay."

Wieder said she looks forward to the program remaining long after she's gone.

"I'm confident that now that it's in place all the people on campus will definitely do our part."

onto campus to remove them from trashcans, Wieder said the school isn't worried about any money possibly lost to visitors.

"We didn't do this as a money maker," Wieder said. "We really did it as our effort to support the environment. If people in the community come by and pick up the bottles and cans, I understand why they do that."

Her sentiments were echoed by the Maintenance and Operations department, which oversaw the implementation of the program and conducts the

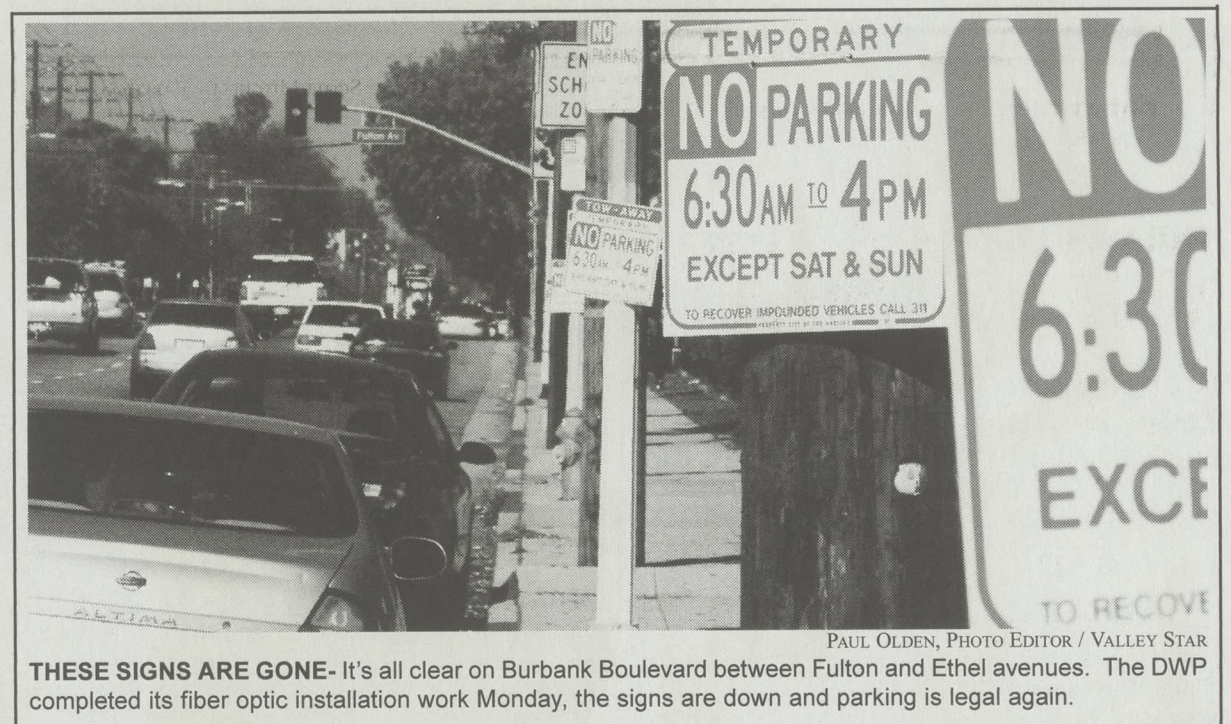
'Recycling'

continued from page 1

of trash on campus.

Tom Lopez, the director of college facilities, said the school could cut its regular trash pickups from four a week to one if the estimations are correct. Lopez said each trash pick up costs about \$250, a potential savings of \$750.

Although recycled materials can be sold to recycling centers and several people come



THESE SIGNS ARE GONE- It's all clear on Burbank Boulevard between Fulton and Ethel avenues. The DWP completed its fiber optic installation work Monday, the signs are down and parking is legal again.

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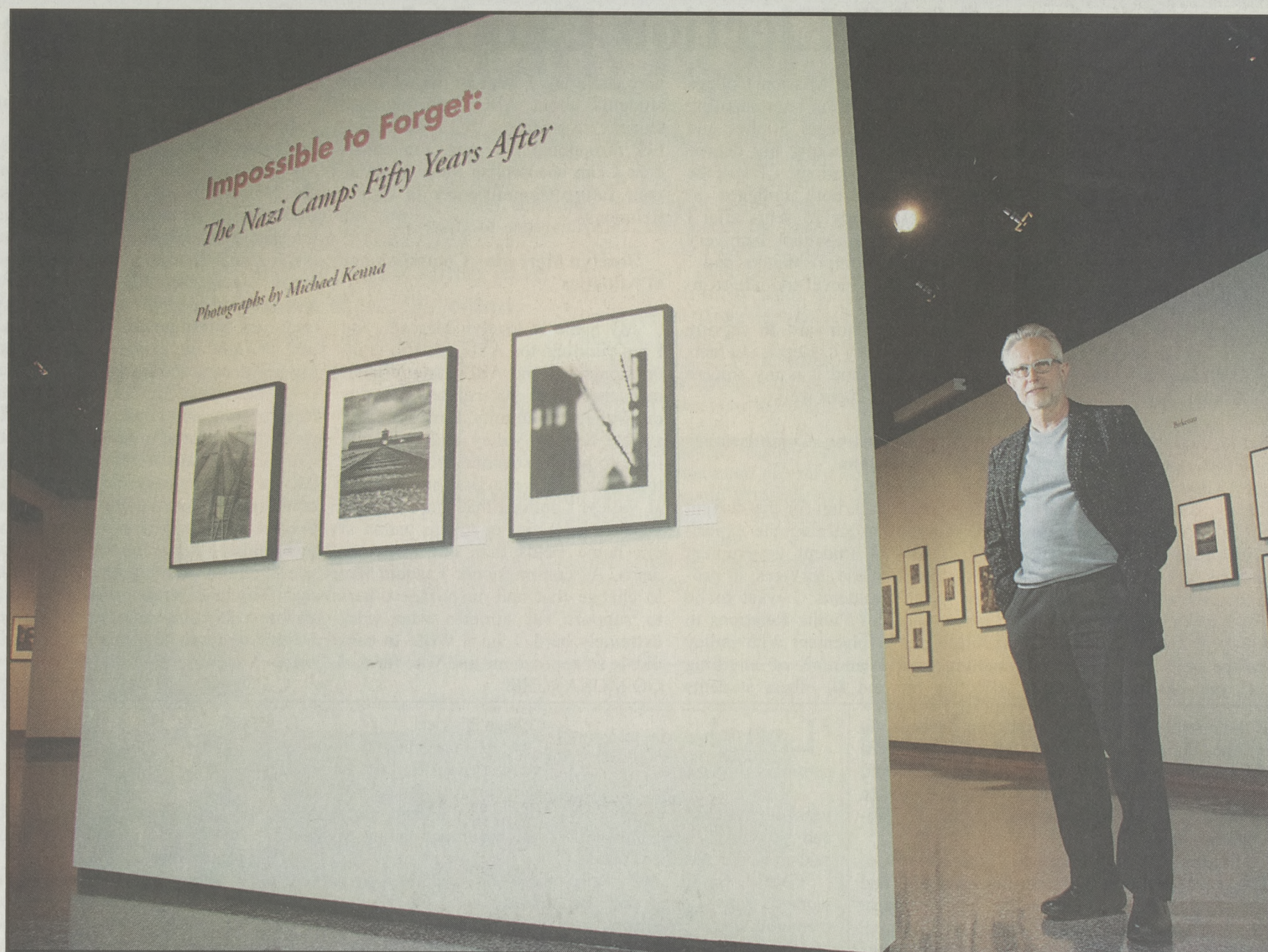
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A NEW HOME - After months of construction and renovation, the Valley College Art Gallery has reopened. Dean of Fine, Performing and Media Arts Dennis Reed says the Gallery is much larger and is keeping with the Valley College legacy of having one of the better spaces for art. The Michael Kenna exhibit is the first to be

Impossible to Forget

TEXT BY PAUL OLDEN
PHOTO EDITOR
LAYOUT BY JONATHAN GIBBY
ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

The wait is over. The Valley College Art Gallery is open again and the months of renovations have been worth it. The gallery opened its doors April 7 to a dramatic photographic display that is sure to ignite suppressed feelings of shock and loss.

The exhibit is called Impossible to Forget: The Nazi Camps Fifty Years After.

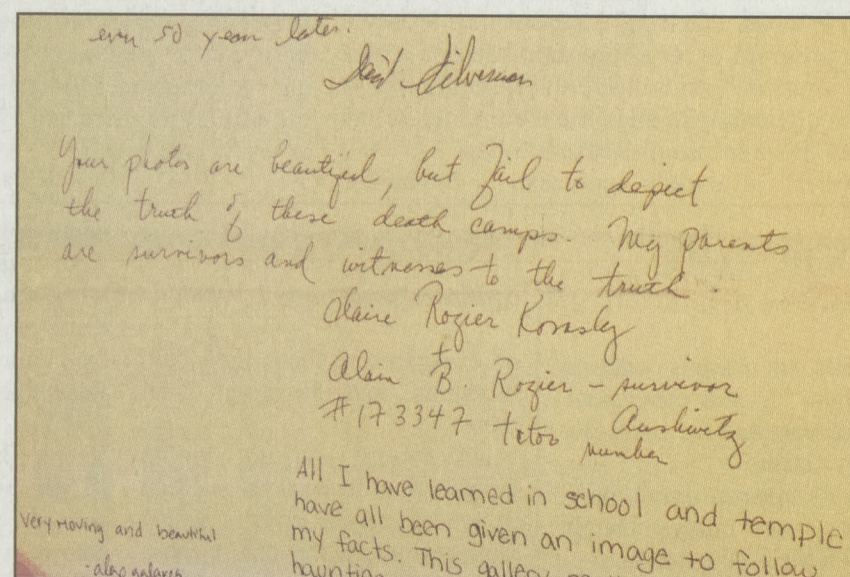
Photographer Michael Kenna began a 12-year project in 1988 to document 30 Nazi concentration camps as an act of remembrance.

But even with knowing the subject matter, an observer can be seduced by the beauty and simplicity of the Gelatin silver, black and white images. Then, one is suddenly struck by the reality of what many of the photos show—death camp ovens, the shoes of the millions of victims of the Holocaust and a snow-like mountain of human ashes.

The photographs will be on display through May 8, 2008. Reactions to those images will linger much longer.



TAKING A CLOSER LOOK - Among the many people who came out opening night to the renovated Valley College Art Gallery was this group that included Israel Hirsch, middle, whose father was interned by the Nazis.



WORDS ABOUT THE DISPLAY - Some of the patrons attending the display of Michael Kenna's photos from the Nazi Concentration camps felt the photos didn't show how bad conditions were in the camps—including the daughter of a survivor who wrote her grandfather's ID number in the book.



OPENING NIGHT - This was the scene at the Valley College Art Gallery at its reopening April 7. The attraction was Michael Kenna's 88 modern day photos of Nazi concentration camps.



OPENING NIGHT SERANADE - Valley College music student Jose Perez plays the classical guitar during the reopening of the campus art gallery.